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Bumpers

DDCI

8 AUG 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DDCI

FROM:

Legislative Counsel

OLC RECORD COPY

SUBJECT:

Letter from Senator Bumpers to
Vice President Mondale

1. Senator Bumpers might beard you with a request that he has levied on Vice President Mondale to obtain a compartmented clearance for his S.Res.4 staffer, Leonard Parkinson. A copy of the letter to Vice President Mondale is attached.

2. I have discussed the matter with Bill Smith on Vice President Mondale's staff and advised him to suggest to Bumpers that he deal directly with us on this issue. This is a case analogous to that of Senator Morgan's for his S.Res. 4 staffer, John Stirk. The answer to the Senator's request is that under our current guidelines we cannot and will not grant his man a compartmented clearance. You should know that Senators Byrd and Baker for the Senate Leadership have agreed to our guidelines which read essentially as follows: We will not grant compartmented clearances to personal staffers of U.S. Senators. Only regular committee staff members of standing Senate committees with intelligence oversight jurisdiction and a need-to-know will be cleared.

3. The fact of the matter is that we can brief Senator Bumpers' staffer through the Secret level on anything that he may need to know. Senator Bumpers can be briefed personally on the remaining five percent. If we accede to Senator Bumpers' request it will play havoc with the stance we are taking with Senator Morgan for which we have already paid a price in popularity. The problem with both Morgan and Bumpers is that the S.Res. 4 staffers they have hired possessed compartmented clearances in previous incarnations. [redacted]

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4. We never promised you a rose garden, Frank, but help us hold the line, please.

[redacted]
Frederick P. Hitz

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Attachments

Distribution: [redacted]

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28-1824/2

Rec'd

8 Aug

OLC #78-1944/L

July 31, 1978

The Honorable Walter Mondale
President of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Fritz:

It has come to my attention that the Director of Central Intelligence has proposed in a July 21 letter to you to deny access to sensitive intelligence information to personal staff members. As a member of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I deeply regret the DCI's proposal and I urge you to critique his guidelines for the issuance of compartmented clearances.

I am sure that I do not have to tell you, so perhaps it is the CIA that should be told of the daily frenetic pace of the individual Senator who, perforce, does not have time to keep in regular contact with cleared committee staff personnel. Accordingly, I must rely upon my personal staff assistant, Leonard Parkinson, for on-the-spot briefings of, for recent examples, encrypted telemetry, the throw-weight of the SS-19, verification problems associated with a Soviet mobile ICBM system, and a variety of other sensitive subjects essential to my own decision-making regarding strategic arms control, the defense budget, and other key military-political matters. Without his regular access to compartmented information, we would ultimately be relying on Aviation Week and the few other journals that regularly leak bits of sensitive data.

An in-depth understanding of the strategic weapon systems is particularly essential at this time. We are on the eve of important SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, and thus an

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intense debate on the Senate floor. I want to have at hand a full understanding of the substantive hardware issues that will be involved, and I know that I will have to rely on my staff aide for the details which can only be the product of compartmented intelligence information.

Looking forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dale Bumpers

DB:llm

cc: DCI Stansfield Turner
Senator John C. Stennis
Senator Warren G. Magnuson

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